

From: Ron Severdia
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 7:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

Surely there are political forces at work behind the proposed settlements to the Microsoft antitrust suit. How else could one explain the leniency and reckless disregard for protecting the general public against such business practices? Are we to allow this to continue? Have big businesses intimidated the federal government to the point they are granted 3carte blanche?

The current resolution under debate is more than unacceptable. It is a farce because it, in no way whatsoever, represents a punishment for Microsoft's ****proven**** (again, I emphasize **PROVEN**) illegal acts. It is a resolution that will only continue to foster Microsoft's growth and stronghold on the PC market (especially where it's most deficient--the education sector), despite it's lack of innovation and morales. Their casual attitude towards the DOJ (and other legal entities opposing them) and their boldface lies (they told the court that, 3sure, it would supply a version of Windows with Internet Explorer removed from its guts, but gee, sorry, then Windows wouldn't work.²) shows nothing but contempt for the free-market society which helped them build up to where they are; the same free-market society they misused and abused along the way.

I am extremely thankful for the 9 states that have had the insight, intelligence and courage in refusing to accept this situation as is (being from California, I am especially thankful we are one of those 9.) It is only because of them I have had any faith that this matter will be resolved fairly and according to what is in the best interest of society, and most importantly our country. I hope that this kind of unwavering determination will ensure justice prevails.

I urge you to resolve this matter in a manner that may not be consistent with the lingering political motives, but in a fashion that will be in the best interest of the American people.

Sincerely,

Ron Severdia